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John Carter Brown.

BOUND BY F. BEDFORD

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SEVERAL

EPISTLES

Given forth by Two of the

LORDS Faithful Servants,

Whom he sent to

NEW-ENGLAND,

TO

Bear Witness to his Everlasting Truth.

And were there (by the Priests, Rulers, and Professors) after cruel and long Imprisonment, and inhumane Whippings and Banishment, put to death; for no other Cause, but for keeping the Commandments of God, and Testimony of Jesus.

William Robinson.
William Leddra.

Here is also perfixed *W. R.* his Testimony of his Call to that Service, for obedience unto which, he underwent the wrath of Men, but hath obtained Everlasting Peace and Rest with God.

And they overcame by the bloud of the Lamb, and the word of their Testimony, who loved not their lives unto the the death.

London, Printed in the Year, 1669.

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JOHN CARTER BROWN

W. Robinson *his Testimony of his Call to that Service, for obedience unto which he was by the Professors of* New-England *put to Death.*

ON the 8th of the 4th month, 1659. in the after-part of the day, in travelling betwixt *Newport* on *Road-Island*, and the house of *Daniel Gold* on the same *Island*, with my dear Brother *Christopher Holder*; The Word of the Lord came expresly unto me, which did fill me immediately with Life and Power, and heavenly Love, by which he constrained me, and commanded me to pass to *Boston*, my life to lay down into his Will, for the accomplishing his Service that he had there to perform, at the day appointed. To which heavenly Voice I presently yielded obedience, not questioning the Lord how he would bring the thing to pass, being I was a Child; and obedience was commanded of me by the Lord, who filled me with living strength and power from his heavenly presence, which at that time did mightily over-shaddow me, and my Life did say *Amen* to what the Lord required of me, and had commanded me to do, and willingly was I given up from that time to this day, the will of the Lord God to do and to perform, whatever become of my body: for the Lord hath said unto me, My Soul shall rest in eternal Peace, and my Life shall enter into Rest for being obedient to the God of my Life; I being a Child, and durst not question the Lord in the least, but rather willing to lay down my life than to bring dishonour to the Lord; and as the Lord made me willing, dealing kindly with me, as a tender Father doth towards a faithful Child whom he dearly loves, so did the Lord deal with me, in ministring his Life unto me, which gave and giveth me strength to perform what the Lord required of

me, and ſtill as I did and do ſtand in need, he miniſtred and miniſtreth more vertue and heavenly power and wiſdom, whereby I was and am made ſtrong in God, not fearing what Man ſhall be ſuffered to do unto me, being filled with heavenly Courage, which is Meekneſs and Innocency; for the Cauſe is the Lords that we go in, and the Battel is the Lords; and thus ſaith the Lord of Hoſts, the mighty and terrible God, *Not by might, nor by ſtrength, nor by power of man, but by my Spirit*, ſaith the Lord of Hoſt, *will I perform what my mouth hath ſpoken through my Servants whom I have choſen, mine Elect in whom my Soul delighteth.* Friends, the God of my Life, and the God of the whole Earth did lay this thing upon me, for which I now ſuffer bonds near unto death; He by his Almighty Power and everlaſting Love, conſtrained me and laid this thing upon me, and truly I could not deny the Lord, much leſs reſiſt the Holy One of *Iſrael*. Therefore all People who are ignorant of the motion of the Lord in the inward parts, be not haſty in judging in this matter, before you hear the truth of the matter, leſt you ſpeak evil of the things you know not: for of a truth the Lord God of the whole Earth commanded me by his Spirit, and ſpoke unto me by his Son, whom he hath made Heir of all things, and in his Life I live, and in it I ſhall depart this earthy tabernacle, if unmerciful men be ſuffered to take it from me; and herein I rejoyce that the Lord is with me, the Ancient of dayes, the Life of the ſuffering Seed, for which I am freely given up, and ſingly do I ſtand in the will of God; for me to live is Chriſt, but to die is gain: And truly, I have a great deſire and will to die herein, knowing that the Lord is with me, whatever ignorant men ſhall be able to ſay againſt me, for the witneſs of the Spirit I have received, and the preſence of the Lord and his heavenly Life, who hath accounted me worthy, and called me hereunto, to bear my Teſtimony againſt ungodly and unrighteous men, who ſeek to take away the life of the Upright without a cauſe, as the Rulers of the *Maſſathuſits Bay* doth intend, if the Lord ſtop them not from their unrighteous intent. —— Oh! hear ye Rulers, and give ear and liſten all you that have any hand herein, to put the Innocent to death! for in the Name, and Fear, and Dread of the Lord God, I here declare the cauſe of my ſtaying here amongſt you, and continuing

tinuing in your Jurisdiction after there was a Sentence of death (as ye said) pronounced against me, without a just cause, as you well know; that we who are banished, committed nothing worthy of banishment, not of any punishment, much less banishment upon death: And now, ye Rulers, ye do intend to put me to death with my Companion, unto whom the Word of the Lord God came saying, *Go to* Boston *with thy Brother* William Robinson: unto which Command he was obedient, who had said unto him, that he had a great work for him to do: which thing is now seen, and the Lord is now doing of it, and it is in obedience to the Lord God of the whole Earth, that we continue amongst you; and that we came to this Town of *Boston* again in obedience to the Lord, the Creator of Heaven and Earth, in whose hand your breath is, and will ye put us to death for obeying the Lord God of the whole Earth? Well, if you do this act, and put us to death, know this, and be it known unto you all, ye Rulers and People within this Jurisdiction, whosoever hath a hand herein, will be guilty of innocent bloud, not only upon your selves will you bring innocent bloud, but upon this Town and the Inhabitants thereof, and elsewhere within your Jurisdiction that hath the least hand herein; therefore be instructed ye Rulers of this Land, and take warning betimes, and learn wisdom before it be hid from your eyes; And know this, if you put us to death, the Lord will arise in his fierce wrath against you, ye Rulers in this Land, ye shall not escape the judgments of the God of *Israel*, who will consume you root and branch if you put us to death.

Written by one who feareth the Lord, who is by ignorant People called, A Quaker; *and unto such am I only known by the Name* William Robinson; *yet a new Name I have received, which such knows not.*

Several

Several Epistles given forth by Two of the Lords faithful Servants, whom he sent to New-England, *&c.*

THe streams of my Fathers Love runs daily through me from the holy Fountain of Life, to the Seed throughout the whole Creation, I am overcome with love, for it is my life and the length of my dayes, it's my glory and my daily strength, I am swallowed up with love, and in love I live, with it I am overcome, and in it I dwell with the holy Seed, to which the blessing of love is given from God who is Love, who hath shed it abroad in my heart, which daily fills me with living joy from the Life from whence it comes: Ye Children of the Living God, feel me when you are travelling in it, feel me when it runs from the Fountain into your Vessels, when it issues gently like new Wine into your bosoms, when the strength and power of it you feel, when you are overcome with the strength of the Life, which is God, then feel me present in the Fountain of Love, the House of Heaven, where is many Mansions; ye Children of the Lord, feel me wrapt up with you in that pure Love which destroyes the love which is at emnity with God, which wars against the Seed; which pure Love proceeds from the Father of Love, the God of Truth, let nothing separate you from this Love which is my Life; let neither words nor thoughts enter betwixt which is contrary to it, for it will stain the place of its abode. So dear Children, who are begotten by love into the Covenant of Life and Love, keep daily in it; this is the portion that God hath given unto his Children, to continue in his Love, which is the life of the Seed which is raised by the power of the endless Love of God in the Creature. I am full of the quickning power of the Lord Jesus Christ, and my Lamp is filled with pure Oyl,

so

so that it gives a clear light and pleasant smell, and I shall enter with my Beloved into Eternal Peace and Rest, wherein I am swallowed up, with the Life of it I am filled, and in it I shall depart with everlasting joy and praises in my mouth, singing Hallalujahs unto the Lord who hath Redeemed me by his Living Power from amongst Kindreds, Tongues, and Nations. And now the day of my departure draweth near, I have fought a good Fight, I have kept the holy Faith, I have near finished my Course, my travelling is near at an End, and my Testimony is near to be finished, and an Eternal Crown is laid up for me, and for all whose feet are shod with Righteousness and the preparation of Peace, even such whose Names are written in the Book of Life, wherein I live and remain with all the faithful Seed for ever and ever, *Amen.*

Written by a Servant of Jesus Christ,

William Robinson.

William Robinson, *a faithful Martyr, who was banished upon pain of Death, and robbed and tortured with cruel Whipping, and afterwards Condemned to die with his fellow Sufferers,* Marmaduke Stephenson *and* Mary Dier, *who, all three, hand in hand like innocent Lambs were led away, with the Souldiers guarding, and the Drums beating (that the People might not hear them speak) to the place of Execution; where, by the Priests, Rulers, and Professors they were cruelly murdered for the Word of God, and the Testimony of Jesus: Two dayes before their death, this Salutation of his Love to his fellow Prisoners, proceeded from him as followeth:*

MY dear Brethren and Sisters, to whom my love abounds, I am filled with pure love unto you all, dear Limbs, feel it in your own lives, and receive it into your own hearts as new Oil; for truly the fear of the Lord is our strength, and the blessing of the Lord is our portion, which the Lord doth daily give unto us, blessed be his Name for ever. Oh! let us all keep in Lowliness and

and Holineſs, and Meekneſs, and tender Love one towards another, which is the Seal and Witneſs that the Lord is with us; where the Lord for ever keep us ſtaid on him to receive our daily bread, which ſatisfieth the hungry Soul. Dear Friends, Brethren and Siſters, this I am conſtrained to let you know how mightily the Love of the Lord our God abounds in my heart, and from my Life towards you all; it runs forth as a living ſtream, refreſhing the Spirit and Life within us all, and every one as you feel it, and according to your meaſures receive it into your hearts, to the refreſhing and ſtrengthning of one another. Dear Lambs, I was the firſt that the Lord God our heavenly Father did lay this thing upon, for which I now ſuffer bonds near to death, from the firſt day until now, the weight of the thing was laid upon me from the Lord God, in obedience to his holy Will and Command, I gave up, in which obedience the Arm and Power of the Lord hath been and is with me to this day, and the thing which the Lord hath ſaid unto me from the beginning of it to this day, which ſtill remains with me, that my Life muſt accompliſh the thing, and by it muſt the powers of Darkneſs fall, and yet will they ſeek and labour to take it from me, and through much difficulty and buſtling will they be ſuffered, to the glory of our God, and to the rejoycing of the Elect. So my dear Brethren and Siſters, my Love and Life feel in your own hearts, for I am full unto you all in Heavenly Love, and my Life is ever with you; the Lord for ever keep us all as we are now, to the glory of his Name, *Amen*. This was I moved to write unto you all, my dear Brethren and Siſters, my fellow Priſoners, that have any part or do partake with me herein. Your dear Brother, in Holy and Heavenly Joy, and true Love and Peace.

William Robinſon.

Written in the Hole of the Condemned in Boſton *Goal in* New-England, *the Firſt day of the Week, being the 16th day of the 8th mon.* 1659.

William

William Leddra, *the last of the Four Martyrs that were murdered in* Bolton: *He for the Truths sake was Prisoner under the hands of the cruel Professors of* New-Plimouth *near a year, to the admiration of tender People, in a very open Prison, where he lay, in an extream cold Winter without any fire, by which he might have been frozen to death, had not the Lord upheld: He afterwards coming to* Bolton *in* New-England, *where for being called a* Quaker, *he was by Priests and Rulers torn and tortured with cruel Whipping, and banished on pain of Death, and kept close Prisoner almost a year, fast chained to a Logg of Timber, from the hour of his coming into Prison, till the very moment they led him forth to be murdered; and when they called him before the Judgment Seat to receive the Sentence of Death, the cruel Jaylor who would drag him by the hair of the head, sometime lead him along through part of the Town, who in the silent Lamb-like patience followed him in Chains, bearing the Logg into their Judgment-Hall; this Lamb of Jesus the very day before the Priests, Rulers, and Professors murdered him, gave forth to all the Faithful, this ensuing Testimony for the Lord,*

To the Society of the little Flock, Grace and Peace be multiplied.

MOst dear and inwardly beloved, The sweet influence of the Morning Star, like a Floud, distilling into my innocent Habitation, hath so filled me with the joy of the Lord in the beauty of Holiness, that my Spirit is as if it did not inhabit a Tabernacle of Clay, but is wholly swallowed up in the bosom of Eternity from whence it had its being; Alas, alas, what can the wrath and spirit of man that lusteth to Envy, aggravated by the heat and strength of the King of the Locusts which came out of the Pit, do unto one that is hid in the Secret place of the Almighty, or unto them that are gathered under the healing wings of the Prince of Peace, under whose Armour of Life they shall be able to stand in the day of tryal, having on the Breastplate of Righteousness, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is their weapon of War against Spiritual Wickedness, Principalities, and

Powers, and the Rulers of the Darkneſs of this World, both within and without? Oh! my beloved, I have waited as a Dove at the window of the Ark, and have ſtood ſtill in that Watch, which the Maſter of the Houſe did at his coming (without whom I could do nothing) reward with the fulneſs of his Love, wherein my heart did rejoyce, that I might in the Love and Life of God, ſpeak a few words unto you, ſealed with the Spirit of Promiſe, that the taſte thereof might be a ſavour of Life to your life, and a Teſtimony in you of my innocent death. And if I had been altogether ſilent, and the Lord had not opened my mouth unto you, yet he would have opened your hearts, and there have ſealed my Innocency with the ſtreams of Life, by which we are baptized into that body which is in God, with whom and in whoſe Preſence there is Life, in which as you abide, you ſtand upon the pillar and ground of Truth; for the Life being the Truth, and the Way, go not one ſtep without it, leſt you ſhould compaſs a Mountain of ſin in the Wilderneſs: For unto every thing there is a ſeaſon, as the flowing of the Ocean doth fill every Creek and Branch thereof, and then retires again towards its own being and fulneſs, and leaves a ſavour behind it; So doth the Life and Virtue of God flow into every one of your hearts, whom he hath made partaker of his Divine Nature; and when it withdraws but a little, it leaves a ſweet ſavour behind it, that many can ſay, they are made clean through the Word that he hath ſpoken to them, in which innocent condition you may ſee what you are in the Preſence of God, and what you are without him. Therefore, my dear hearts, let the injoyment of the Life alone be your Hope, your Joy, and Conſolation; and let the Man of God flee thoſe things that would lead the Mind out of the Croſs, for then the ſavour of Life will be buried; And although that ſome may ſpeak of things that they received in the Life (as experiences) yet the Life being vailed, and the ſavour that it left behind, waſhed away by the freſh flouds of Temptations; the Condition that they did injoy in the Life, boaſted of by the Aiery thing, will be but as the Manna that was gathered yeſterday, without either ſcent or ſavour: for it was only well with the Man while he was in the Life of Innocency; but being driven from the Preſence of the Lord into the Earth, what can he boaſt of? And

although

although you know these things, and many of you much more than I can say, yet for the Love and Zeal that I bear to the Truth and Honour of God, and the tender Desires of my Soul to those that are young, that they might read me in that from which I write, to strengthen them against the Wiles of the subtile Serpent that beguiled *Eve*; I say, stand in the Watch within, in the fear of the Lord, which is the very entrance of Wisdom, and the state where you are ready to receive the secrets of the Lord; hunger and thirst patiently, be not weary, neither doubt; stand still, and cease from thy own working, and in due time thou shalt enter into thy Rest, and thy Eyes shall behold thy Salvation, whose Testimonies are sure and righteous altogether; let them be as a seal upon thy arm, and as jewels about thy neck, that others may see what the Lord hath done for your Souls, confess him before men, yea, before the greatest of his enemies, fear not what they can do to you; greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the World; for He will cloath you with Humility, and in the power of his Meekness you shall reign over all the rage of your Enemies in the favour of God, wherein as you stand in Faith, ye are the Salt of the Earth; for many seeing your good works, may glorifie God in the day of their visitation. Take heed of receiving that which you saw not in your Life, lest you give ear to the Enemy; bring all to the Life, that they may be proved whether they are wrought in God. The love of the World, the lust of the Flesh, the lust of the Eye, is without the Light, in the World; therefore possess your Vessels in all Sanctification and Honour, and let your Eye look at the mark, He that hath called you, who is Holy; And if there be an eye that offends, pluck it out, and cast it from you; let not the Temptation take hold, for if you do, it will keep from the favour of God, and that will be a sad state; for without Grace possess it, there is no assurance of Salvation: By Grace you are saved, and the witnessing of it is sufficient for you; To which I commend you all, my dear Friends and in it remain,

Your Brother,

William Leddra.

Boston Goal, the 13th of the First Month, 1661.

THE END.

J.C.B. Light -6128-
(Tata Hitachi -Jcb)
to be refitted.
J.C.B Cat/J 0491 Loco
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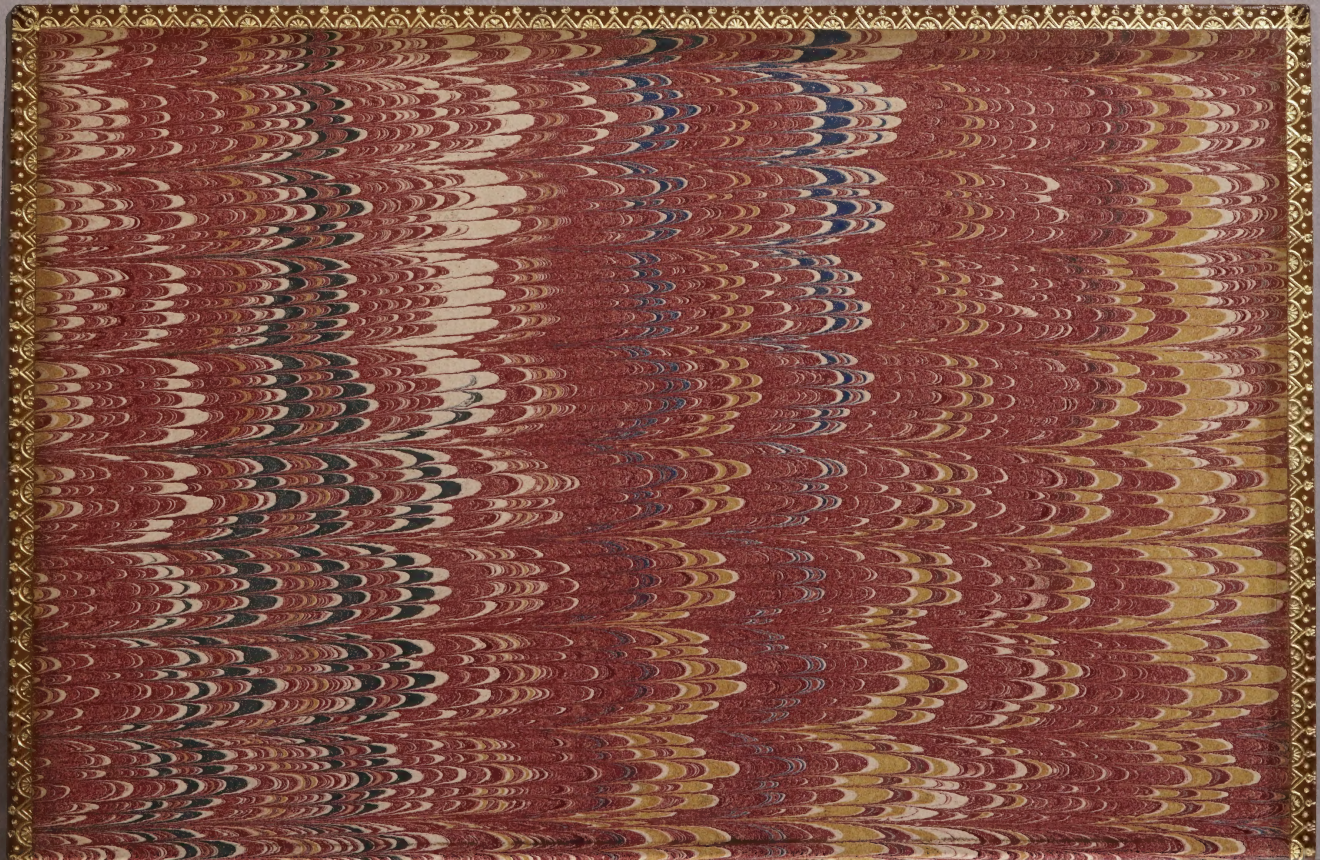
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